

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2007

Lieutenant General James Dubik
Commander, I Corps
Fort Lewis, Washington 98433

Administrator Elin Miller
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear General Dubik and Administrator Miller:

A recent news article highlighted concerns about the potential that trichloroethylene (TCE) vapor may be contaminating some family housing units at Fort Lewis. The Army's own report from October 2003 is quoted as saying that "Contaminated groundwater has reached Madigan housing resulting in an unknown hazard associated with vapor intrusion into the buildings."

While historical studies have revealed the existence of a plume of TCE-contaminated groundwater migrating in the vicinity of these houses, there is uncertainty about the existence and concentration of TCE vapors in and around the homes. Because of the potential for inhalation by any of the residents of the surrounding area, we believe it is prudent and necessary to pursue a thorough investigation of air concentrations of TCE and other volatile organics that have been determined to be present in the area's groundwater. We believe that it is important at this time for the EPA and Fort Lewis to engage in proactive involvement of any potentially-impacted individuals, keeping them informed of plans and results of testing, and of any and all measures being taken to assure a clean and safe environment.

In order to accelerate this process and to assure that this is a cooperative effort, we are calling for a meeting at Fort Lewis on April 12th, with participation from both the Army and the Environmental Protection Agency. This forum should establish a baseline of the history of the contamination that is at the root of this problem and the results of previous testing that has been performed. The meeting also should establish a framework for your respective agencies to move forward to address the potential public health risks and environmental hazards in a proactive manner that gives the residents at Fort Lewis and the general public the confidence that the Army and EPA are acting in their best interests.



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Norm Dicks
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress